cost of Rs. 250 crore. The Project was also sanctioned by the Planning Commission in August, 1986 subject to clearance to the project from the forest angle. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) rejected the proposal in January, 1991 as the project was located in the prime forest area of the Western Ghats. The Project was reviewed by Ministry of Environment and Forests again in 1996 and was rejected by them on the ground of "adverse ecological impact". On recommendations of an Expert Committee constituted for in-depth analysis of the Project, the State Government had been asked to carry out studies pertaining to (i) Environment Impact Assessment, (ii) Social Impact Assessment, (iii) Social and Environmental cost-benefit analysis; and (iv) Engineering Evaluation.

(c) and (d) The Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute (TBGRI) at Palode was entrusted with the task of assessment of the ecologically sustainable optimum submergence level. TBGRI carried out the studies and submitted its report to Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) in July, 2003. As informed by KSEB, based on the report submitted, the Engineering Evaluation, Social Impact Assessment and Social and Environmental Cost Benefit Analysis will require recasting. The Detailed Project Report would also need to be modified by KSEB in view of the change in project components. Forest clearance would be considered by the MOEF after the above formalities are completed by KSEB/State Government.

Project proposals under Swajaldhara Scheme

*40. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of project proposals under Swajaldhara submitted by Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States of the country since the inception of the Scheme, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals cleared so far, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons for non-clearance of proposals, State-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to clear the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) The Swajaldhara Scheme was launched in December

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2002 and during the year 2002-03, the project proposals were forwarded by the State Governments to Government of India for clearance. In the year 2002-03, 11075 proposals were forwarded by the four Southern States of which 2226 were cleared by Government of India. The State-wise details are as under :

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of proposals received in the year 2002-03	No. of proposals approved in 2002-03
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9037	1661
2.	Karnataka	247	55
3.	Tamil Nadu	1255	390
4.	Kerala	536	120
	Total	11075	2226

Comprehensive Guidelines on Swajaldhara were issued in June 2003 which stipulated that henceforth all proposals under Swajaldhara would be approved by the District Water and Sanitation Committee. Accordingly, balance proposals which had earlier been received in the Government of India and could not be considered in the year 2002-03, were returned to the respective State Government for consideration on priroity as per the Guidelines issued in June 2003 within the allocated amount communicated to the State for the year 2003-04.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Private participation in coal trade

109. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to liberalise norms for allotment of captive blocks of coal mines to private sector and permit trading of coal through private participation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the specific blocks, if any, for such allotments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL) : (a) to (b) In order to augment coal production in the country and to bridge the gap between demand and supply of